



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR THOMAS M. MCGEE  
Third Essex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 109C  
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053

TEL. (617) 722-1350

FAX (617) 722-1005

THOMAS.MCGEE@MASENATE.GOV

WWW.MASENATE.GOV

October 16, 2014

Attn: Antitrust Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
One Ashburton Place, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Attorney General Coakley,

We are writing at this time in opposition to the proposed settlement with Partners Health Care, Inc. As elected officials representing Greater Lynn, we have serious concerns about the effects of Partners' acquisition on both costs and services in our region.

As noted in the Health Policy Commission's preliminary report on the Partners' Acquisition of Hallmark Health Corporation, the acquisition will result in negative impacts to cost, quality and access. The transaction will lead to significant cost increases across northeastern Massachusetts. The changes in services will make it more difficult, especially for vulnerable populations, to access the care they need because their services have shifted to another distant location. We are strongly opposed to any transaction that would lead to increases in costs and less access to medical services.

Should Partners' plan move forward, the City of Lynn with a population of over 90,000 people will lose its only full service hospital. The proposal would shift services at Union Hospital away from acute and essential medical care towards mental health services. While we certainly recognize that there is a serious need for additional mental health services across the State, we are opposed to any proposal that eliminates or minimizes medical care in our City's only hospital. Our constituents, local officials, elected officials and other stakeholders are united in our opposition to this proposal.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider the proposed settlement with Partners and that any new settlement address the negative impacts across the region, specifically at Union Hospital in Lynn. We appreciate your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. McGee  
State Senator  
3<sup>rd</sup> Essex

Robert F. Fennell  
State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> Essex